

GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH
ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS, SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY (Sec-II) DEPARTMENT

Memo No.5104/Section-II/2018

Dated: 26.11.2020.

From
The Special Chief Secretary to Government, (FAC)
EFS&T Department,
A.P. Secretariat, Velagapudi,
Amaravati-522503.

To
The Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Central)
Government of India,
Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change.
Regional Office, 1st and 2nd Floors,
Handloom Export promotion Council Building
34, Cathedral Garden Road,
Nungambakkam, Chennai – 600034 (w.e)

Sir,

Sub: Diversion of 20.72 Ha. of forest land in Venkatagiri Hill RF & Inagaluru RF in Nellore and Chittoor Districts for excavation of Somasila Swarnamukhi Link canal from Km. 56.000 to Tail End Km. 100.425 including CM & CD works in favour of Chief Engineer, NTR TGP, Tirupati – Additional information – Submitted - Reg.

Ref: 1.From the PCCF (HoFF), A.P., Lr.Rc.No. 10384/2017/FCA-1,Dated: 06.11.2018.
2. State Govt.Lr.No.5104/Section-II/2018, dated.13-12-2018.
3. From GoI, MoEF& CC, Lr. No.4-APA092/2018-CHN/0104, dt.24-01-2019.
4.From the PCCF (HoFF), A.P., Lr.Rc.No.10384/2017/FCA-1, Dated: 06.03.2019.
5.State Govt.Lr.No.5104/Section-II/2018, dated.24-04-2019.
6.From GoI, MoEF& C.C, RO, Chennai, Lr No.4-APC092/2018-CHN/0982, Dt.19.06.2019.
7.From the PCCF(HoFF), Lr.Rc.No.10384/2017/FCA-1, dt.17.10.2019 and even no.dt.23.10.2020.

I invite your attention to the reference 2nd cited, in which the State Government have forwarded a proposal to Government of India, Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change, Regional Office, Chennai for according necessary approval under Section 2 of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, for diversion of 20.72 Ha. of forest land in Venkatagiri Hill RF & Inagaluru RF in Nellore and Chittoor Districts for excavation of Somasila Swarnamukhi Link canal from Km. 56.000 to Tail End Km. 100.425 including CM & CD works in favour of Chief Engineer, NTR TGP, Tirupati.

2. The Government of India, Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change, Regional Office, Chennai in the reference 6th cited has informed that the subject proposal was considered by the Regional Empowered Committee (REC) in its 36th meeting held on 18.06.2019 and decided to consider the proposal after receipt of action taken report i.e. extent of the area under violation, period in which work has been carried out, action taken on the individual/officials responsible for violation etc. under the provisions of the State Forest Acts / Rules from the State Government and requested to furnish the information/documents as sought by the REC at the earliest so as to consider the proposal under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

P.T.O

3. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Head of Forest Force), Andhra Pradesh, in his letter 7th cited (copies enclosed) has stated that the Chief Engineer, NTR TGP, Tirupati vide his letter dt.08.07.2020 has informed that the Irrigation Department had warned the following officers responsible for excavation of Somasila Swarnamukhi Link Canal from Km.73.000 to Km.74.100 and from Km 75.400 to Km.76.140 and also instructed to be very cautious in discharging the their duties in future.

1. Sri T. Kishore babu, EE, TGP Division, Venkatagiri
2. Sri Y. Parandhama Reddy, Dy.EE, SSLC & SB Sub-Division.3,KR Dam, and
3. Sri Ch.Vemaiah, AEE, SSLC & SB Sub-Division.3, KR Dam.

4. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Head of Forests Force) has further stated that the Chief Engineer, NTR TGP, Tirupati has informed the agency has stopped the construction of structure work immediately as the Forest officials instructed to stop the work. It is so happened due to misinterpretation of the boundaries of forest land as they were not properly identified. The same was confirmed only after a detailed DGPS survey conducted jointly by the user agency and the Forest officers. Hence, the department has not initiated action against the contractor for violation.

5. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Head of Forests Force) has also stated that necessary action is being taken to issue Article of Charges (AoC) against Sri K. Venkata Subbaiah (the then FRO, Srikalahasti Range) and others of Srikalahasti Range, Chittoor East WL Division for allowing the user agency for digging Somasila Swarnamukhi Link Canal from Km 73.000 to Km 74.100 and from Km 75.400 to Km 76.140 falling in Compt No. 172 of Venkatagiri RF and in Compt No. 196 of Inagalur RF of Srikalahasti Range of Chittoor East WL Division.

6. I therefore request you to consider the above information and obtain and communicate the approval of Government of India, Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change, Regional Office, Chennai, under Section 2 of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, for the subject project, at the earliest.

Yours faithfully,

N-Jagadeeswari
for Special Chief Secretary to Government (FAC)

Copy to:

The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Head of Forests Force,
Andhra Pradesh, Guntur.

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